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60130-1874; 03MRA0392

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior revisions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a stabilizer bar comprising the step of thermal spraying an exterior surface of a bar and forming a thickened portion of the bar on the exterior surface relative to another portion of the bar, and the step of shot peening the bar subsequent to the thermal spraying step.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~claim 2~~ comprising the step of heat treating the bar between the thermal spraying and shot peening steps.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 3 comprising the step of forming the bar into a desired stabilizer bar shape between the thermal spraying and heat treating steps.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~claim 2~~ comprising the step of forming the bar into a desired stabilizer bar shape between the thermal spraying and shot peening steps.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5 wherein the bar is heat treated.

7. (Cancelled)

60130-1874; 03MRA0392

8. (Cancelled)
9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1~~claim 7~~, wherein the bar is pre-heat treated.
10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1~~claim 7~~ comprising the step of heat treating the bar between the forming the bar and thermal spraying steps.
11. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a stabilizer bar comprising the step of thermal spraying an exterior surface of a bar and forming a thickened portion of the bar on the exterior surface relative to another portion of the bar, the step of forming the bar into a desired stabilizer bar shape prior to the thermal spraying step, and~~The method according to claim 7 comprising~~ the step of shot peening the bar between the forming and thermal spraying steps.
12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11 comprising the step of heat treating the bar between the shot peening and forming the bar steps.
13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1~~claim 2~~ comprising the step of heat treating the bar prior to the thermal spraying and shot peening steps.
14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1~~claim 2~~ comprising the step of forming the bar into a desired stabilizer bar shape prior to the shot peening step.

60130-1874; 03MRA0392

15. (Original) The method according to claim 1 comprising the step of forming the bar into a desired stabilizer bar shape subsequent to the thermal spraying step.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the thickened portion has a first diameter larger than a second diameter of the another portion.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the thickened portion is adjacent to the another portion.